

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th May 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

A correspondent of the *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 7th May complains

HABLUL MATEEN,
May 7th, 1900.

The interpreter to the Persian
Ambassador at Constantinople.

of the manner in which Hanis Khan, the interpreter to the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople, treats the Persian people, and says that he saw how the interpreter ill-treated a respectable Persian merchant at Constantinople. It is reported that he does not hesitate to sacrifice the interests of one man by taking bribes from another.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 10th May says that a crocodile is com-

KHULNA,
May 10th, 1900.

A crocodile in a river in the
Khulna district.

mitting ravages in the river near Panighata in the Khulna district, and a man has been killed by the creature. The crocodile often floats on the water and can be easily shot. But the residents are powerless, as there are no guns in the village owing to the difficulty in obtaining licenses for guns.

3. A correspondent, writing in the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
May 10th, 1900.

Badmashi in Panga, in the
Rangpur district.

10th May says that some *badmashes* have abducted the wife of Sukasu Das of village Denti and the wife of Khos Nasya of village Khonragach in the Rangpur district. On the 7th of April last 20 or 21 armed men entered the house of Braja Das of village Nalsindur and forcibly took away his wife. The matter is under police enquiry. Such incidents are of frequent occurrence in villages within the jurisdiction of the Kulaghat police-station, but none of the offenders has yet been brought to justice.

4. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th May:—

BASUMATI,
May 10th, 1900.

Inefficiency of the Hooghly
police.

The dutifulness of the mufassal police is indeed strange. With a few honourable exceptions, the police officers are generally highhanded and extremely covetous. There is nothing which they cannot do for money. They oppress and ill-treat the poor village people, and as the oppressed dare not complain, their tyranny and highhandedness go on increasing. The higher police officers never listen to complaints against the police, and this has emboldened the lower officers.

As for the efficiency of the village police, the less said the better. In June or July 1899, the daughter-in-law of one Umesh Chandra Mukharji of Teghara Takra, district Hooghly, was enticed away and murdered. The dead body was discovered floating on the river. In March 1900, there was a daring dacoity in the house of Babu Hem Chandra Basu of Panisehala in the same district. Neither of these crimes has yet been traced. About the same time there was a daring theft in the house of one Fanibhushan Basu of Baladbund. A child of a Sundi of Gobdanga was robbed and murdered about the same time. But none of these crimes has been traced. It is hoped that the authorities will appoint detectives to trace the offenders.

5. A correspondent writes in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 11th, 1900.

The Burdwan police in a fire.

11th May that on the 28th April a fire broke out in the house of Badre Alam Mian, a Musalman pleader of Burdwan. A municipal employé appeared with a fire engine, but could not put down the fire. The police were not to be found. Only one constable appeared on the scene. The house could have been saved if only vigorous efforts had been made to extinguish the fire.

6. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 11th May writes as follows:—

SAMAY,
May 11th, 1900.

The assault on European soldiers
at Dinapore.

One shudders to think where the assault on European soldiers by some native residents of Daudpur near Bankipore will ultimately lead to. Considering the panic created by oppressive plague measures and plague officers, it was not surprising that the trespassing of three European soldiers into the village in the dark should have created a suspicion in the mind of the ignorant villagers. Their conduct was no doubt extremely unlawful, but there was nothing surprising in it. They assaulted European soldiers only when

anxiety and fear had unsettled their mind. But the *Englishman* has sounded the note of alarm, and says that British prestige must be considered as gone when natives have dared to assault European soldiers. The *Englishman* is smelling sedition everywhere, and thinks that European life and European peace are in danger.

The *Englishman's* outcry has a purpose. Since the assault on the European soldiers, the natives of Dandpur and Sherpur are being assaulted and roughly handled by soldiers within the cantonment limits. It is the object of the *Englishman* to direct the attention of the Government from these cowardly assaults. To tell the truth, the report of these cowardly assaults by European soldiers on natives has thrown us into a panic. We hope the authorities will institute a searching enquiry into these reported assaults.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BIKASH,
May 5th, 1900.

7. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 5th May complains of the conduct of Babu Ambika Charan Datta, Third Munsif of Barisal. Lately he reported against one Kali Prasanna Datta, a muharrir in the Second Munsif's Court, on the strength of the deposition of one Asutosh, a copyist in the same Court. Kali Prasanna was suspended, but a fresh enquiry into the matter by the Second Munsif, by order of the Judge, proved the innocence of the accused. Kali Prasanna has been reinstated in his post and Asutosh has been dismissed. When the enquiry into the case by Gopal Babu was drawing to a close, Ambika Babu sent to him a written deposition of Asu. At this time an enquiry was being made by Ambika Babu into the charge of misappropriation of folio papers preferred against Asu. Ambika Babu's conduct in the case of Kali Prasanna is extremely mysterious. It was against official etiquette not to refer to Gopal Babu, to whose Court Kali Prasanna belongs.

But this is not all. Babu Jatindra Nath Sarkar, B.L., was some time ago appointed to the post of sarishtadar in the Fifth Munsif's Court. Jatindra Babu was the private tutor of Ambika Babu's sons. It was on the strength of Ambika Babu's report that Babu Sasibhusan Das, Translator, Judge's Court, was dismissed and Jatindra Babu was promised this post. But since then Sasi Babu has quarrelled with Ambika Babu and has resigned his post. His hopes have not been fulfilled. The Third Munsif had the power of making appointments, and he was in the habit of appointing outsiders. This has, to a certain extent, been prevented by the Fifth Munsif.

Not long ago Babu Ambika Charan Datta commented upon the conduct of the Barisal Brahmas and said that all Barisal Brahmas were liars and were capable of doing anything. Upon this, Mr. Gupta, a Barisal Brahma, called upon Ambika Babu to apologise, and threatened him with prosecution if he failed to do so. Ambika Babu sent the following reply to Mr. N. Gupta's letter:—

"BARISAL,
The 24th April 1900.
8 P.M.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am very sorry to receive your to-day's letter. Really I do not remember having made any such remark as said in your letter, nor can I ever so realise that I made such a remark as I entertain a great respect and esteem for the Brahma community. I did not admit having made such a remark last night. I can assuredly tell you that I entertain a high respect for the Barisal Brahma Samaj. If such remark were at all made, it could not possibly be serious and never intended to be made public. I am really aggrieved to find that I have offended your community and I sincerely apologise for it.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

AMBICA CHARAN DUTTA."

8. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th May has the following:—

CHARU MIHIR,
May 8th, 1900.

Trial of regular suits in the Mymensingh Courts.

After the departure of Babu Gopal Chandra Basu, the late Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, the trial of regular suits above the value of Rs. 2,000 has been practically given up. Since his departure only one or two such suits have been decided. It was arranged that Babu Dwarika Nath Mitra, Assistant Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, would take up suits which were in the file of Gopal Babu. But Dwarika Babu has to spend most of his time in doing Sessions work, and the dates for hearing these suits are being constantly changed. There are cases more than a year old in the files of the First and Second Subordinate Judges. Their hearing is being constantly postponed, thereby causing much inconvenience and trouble to parties and their witnesses. In many cases the necessary proofs are becoming scanty, owing to the cases being long under trial. It will take the two Subordinate Judges a long time to dispose of all the regular suits which are at present in their files. It cannot be hoped that Dwarika Babu will find time to try some of them. Under these circumstances, it will be better to appoint Babu Hari Prasad Das, Acting Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, who has earned the good-will of the public, Third Subordinate Judge, after the expiry of his officiating term.

9. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 9th May has the following with reference to the Government of India's Resolution on the Chapra case:—

PALLIVASI,
May 9th, 1900.

The Government of India's Resolution on the Chapra case.

The public have been satisfied with Lord Curzon's Resolution on the Chapra case, but we would have been more glad if it had not contained anything unfavourable about Mr. Pennell. The justice of Mr. Pennell's decision has not been questioned, and it has also been clearly proved that the conduct of the executive officers was most objectionable. Mr. Pennell's only fault was that he used somewhat strong language in criticising the actions of Mr. Twidell and others. Considering the circumstances of the case, it is doubtful whether Mr. Pennell can be blamed for having done this. On the one side there was Narsingh, a poor constable, and on the other all the high executive officers of the Government. It is no wonder, therefore, that Mr. Pennell should have lost his equanimity of mind. His action has heightened the glory of British rule a hundredfold and has strengthened the foundations of the Empire by drawing the subjects closer towards the rulers. Then how is Mr. Pennell guilty? Mr. Pennell has only criticised the action of a Magistrate, who forgot the responsibility of his high position and did not carry out the orders of the Judge; and the strong language he has used in criticising an unlawful act is excusable under the circumstances of the case. Should this strong language be the subject of so much censure? This censure will do harm in other directions. If Lord Curzon's Resolution stands in the way of Mr. Pennell's promotion, no civilian will in future dare to criticise the actions of their subordinates. In that case judicial administration will suffer a good deal. We, therefore, say that Mr. Pennell ought to have been rewarded instead of being censured. He who saved poor Narsingh from the conspiracy of the high officials of the Government, he who has kept the name of Mother Empress unsullied by dealing evenhanded justice without making any distinction of race or colour has been censured! Alas Lord Curzon! is this justice?

10. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 11th May thus comments on the conduct of Mr. K. C. De, District Magistrate, in the case of Ayatannechha Khatun:—

SANJAY,
May 11th, 1900.

The Magistrate of Faridpur in the case of Ayatannechha Khatun.

In our opinion, the Magistrate acted hastily in interfering with the police enquiry. His conduct has raised a hue and cry in the town. The Magistrate ought to know how judiciously and cautiously he should act, being entrusted with the promotion of the welfare of 20 lakhs of people. A Magistrate ought not to allow himself to be guided by anyone he comes across and by anything he hears. Mr. De is a new Magistrate, and with all his efforts, he is not expected to act as judiciously as an experienced Magistrate. The Government ought to consider whether he should be entrusted with the charge of a large district.

The present is not the only instance of Mr. K. C. De's inefficiency. The unjust trial of Satis Raja, the unjust conviction of 31 sardars, the

ill-treatment of Tarak Chandra Basu of Palyanpatti—all these are clear proofs of his inefficiency. The Chapra case has drawn the attention of Lord Curzon. Will not these acts of injustice in Faridpur also draw his attention? The Magistrate has called for an explanation from the defendant's pleader, and has given him only one day instead of fifteen days, as required by the law to submit his explanation. The pleader received his brief from Ayatannechha in jail, and we do not know under what celestial influence she now denies the fact. There must be some mystery connected with the case, and we fail to unravel it. The deposition of the jailor somewhat unravels the mystery, but it also shows that the Magistrate and the Jail Superintendent are implicated in the mystery. It is strange that the Jail Superintendent allowed the husband of a maid-servant to see her twice or thrice in the day, and carry her dinner to her. Moreover, the Magistrate took down the accused's statements and dismissed her pleader from his presence. The accused's husband is a man of straw. How could he engage the services of a mukhtar? The pleader did not want to be paid by the accused. Why, then, was he dismissed and a mukhtar engaged in his stead? Was there no one to prompt the accused's husband to act in this way? The accused's statements to the Police Sub-Inspector exactly tallied with her statements to the Police Superintendent. Why did she vary her statements in the jail? It is said that the Magistrate has admitted, in his explanation to the Commissioner, that he had acted a little indiscreetly in the matter. It is also alleged that the Commissioner has informed Maulvi Afsarud-din that he will be transferred. We cannot vouch for the truth of these statements, but we fail to understand why the Deputy Magistrate alone should be punished. The policy of 'everyone to shift for himself' should not be applied in this case. It is also strange that additional articles have been found in the accused's possession after the examination and inspection by Babu Brahmamohan.

HITAVADI,
May 11th, 1900.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May writes that every year ten to twelve settlement amins and chainmen are required for the 'tea land' branch of the Jalpaiguri settlement office. They are generally appointed on the 1st November and discharged on the 31st May of the following year. The work has to be finished within these seven months. The present Settlement Officer makes these amins and chainmen work for two or three weeks without remuneration, and discharges some of them before the month of May.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 13th, 1900.

12. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 13th May has the following :—
Revenue sales. Estates are often sold for arrears of Government revenue, and in many instances the sales are set aside by the Commissioners for irregularities in the sale proceedings. Of course, sales ought to be set aside if there be any irregularity in the sale proceedings, but the Government ought to see that the purchasers are not put to any trouble and inconvenience on account of a sale being set aside. These purchasers have to borrow money at a large rate of interest in order to pay the amounts of their bids, and have also to spend much in depositing the prices bid by them and again in withdrawing the prices when sales are set aside. These and other considerations prevent people from coming forward to bid at a sale. This indirectly does harm to the defaulters, because their estates do not always fetch their proper value on account of paucity of bidders. It must be known to the Government officials that there are thousands of instances in which estates worth a lakh of rupees have gone away for three or four rupees. It does not speak well for the Government that no remedy has as yet been devised for this. Some remedy is absolutely necessary, and we suggest the following for the consideration of Government :—

In case of a sale being set aside, the auction-purchaser should receive ten per cent. on the price paid by him as compensation. If the price paid by the auction-purchaser be less than Rs. 100, still he should get Rs. 10 as compensation. Compensation money should in no case be less than Rs. 10.

This rule should also be made applicable in the case of sales by Civil Courts, with the addition that if the purchaser at a sale be present at the time when the judgment-debtor deposits his money in court, it should be at once made over by the Court to the purchaser.

13. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 14th May is sorry to hear that a

BHARAT MITRA,
May 14th, 1900.

Anti-Nagri movement in the
North-Western Provinces.

meeting of the Hindus and Musalmans of Faizabad has wired to Lord Curzon protesting against the circular orders issued by the Government of the North-Western Provinces introducing the Nagri character into the Courts of those Provinces. The Musalmans, who say that the introduction of the Nagri character will be inconvenient to them, have up to this time failed to produce any satisfactory reasons. There is no knowing whether the Hindus who attended the above meeting belong to respectable families or not. The Musalmans, who are the leaders of the opposition, ought to understand that Sir Antony MacDonnell, after a long consideration, has found out that the Nagri character will not be felt as inconvenient either by Hindus or by Musalmans. His order ought to be carried out as soon as possible.

(d)—Education.

14. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th May writes as follows:—

BASUMATI,
May 10th, 1900.

The moral aspect of University
degrees.

In connection with the proposal to deprive a graduate convicted of a criminal offence of his degree, the *Englishman* refers to the speeches of Raja Peari Mohan Mukharji and Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji, and speaks of religion and morality. Raja Peari Mohan said that a University degree was no criterion of the morals of a graduate. He was right. There are many successful pleaders and barristers who are licentious and badly addicted to drinking. There are inveterate drunkards among European and Bengali doctors, who are earning thousands of rupees a month. What can the University authorities do to keep these people in check? To tell the truth, we cannot understand the feelings of the English. We are even led to think that their god of death and our god of death are two different persons altogether. What we everyday see and hear is a puzzle to us. We cannot always mention names, lest defamation cases be instituted against us.

15. A correspondent of the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 11th May writes as follows:—

DAINIK
CHANDRIKA,
May 11th, 1900.

Text-books, inspecting officers,
&c.

It is with the deepest regret that I proceed to-day to make the following strange and curious statement for the information of Government and the public. It is a brief and categorical statement that I shall make:—

(1) It is really a harassing work to write a book and get it made a text-book. It is only the exceptionally lucky whose books are passed by the Text-book Committee. But to get a book passed is not the whole thing. It is all loss and failure if the officers of the Education Department do not cast a kind look on the writer.

(2) To get any book made a text-book, it is necessary that some one among the writer's relatives should be a relation of either an Inspector of Schools or at least a Sub-Inspector of Schools. The object will not be gained without the favour of some officer of the Department, no matter whether he is a superior or subordinate officer. A true case must here be cited to make the public believe what really seems impossible to believe.

(3) Another word, Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukherji is the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, and consequently possesses great influence. The books written by the Rai Bahadur, his brother, his friends, and his relatives are all included in the list of text-books without any hitch or opposition. If a book is printed at the Hare Press, which is owned by his second son, it is sure to be made a text-book. Although the Rai Bahadur has now retired on pension, his ascendancy remains undiminished.

(4) Babu Shashibhusan Chatterji is a *baibahik* (daughter's father-in-law) of the Rai Bahadur's. The officers of the Department are under many obligations to Shashi Babu. I have lately found one proof of this. A book written by Babu Chunder Nath Bose was a text-book in the primary schools. An inspecting officer, who is a relative of Shashi Babu's, has abolished that book and substituted for it a book written by Shashi Babu. What is all this? Will not the authorities enquire into this matter? The primary school of which I speak is situated in the Bartala quarter of the town. Government should

ascertain the truth or falsity of our statement, and we earnestly pray that this respectful representation of ours may bear fruit.

(5) This Shashi Babu used to gain and even now gains his ends by many unpleasant means. The article pointing out certain so-called errors in Chunder Babu's "Nimna Path," which appeared a few days ago in the *Hitavadi* newspaper, was written at Shashi Babu's instigation. Where is that able critic, Pandit Mahendra Nath Vidyanidhi, M.A. S.B. now? He ought to take up the question. Government should appoint men like the Pandit to the Central Text-book Committee. The new Committee to be shortly constituted should consist of the following gentlemen:—

1. Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E.
2. Pandit Rajendra Chandra Sastri (Roychand Premchand student).
3. „ Mahendra Nath Vidyanidhi.
4. Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, M.A., B.L.
5. „ Chunder Nath Bose, M.A., B.L.
6. „ Bipin Bihari Gupta, M.A.
7. Mr. N. N. Ghosh, Barrister-at-Law.
8. Pandit Kisor Mohan Ganguli, B.L.

The Committee ought to have Sub-Committees. The first five members should form the Sanskrit, Bengali and Grammar Sub-Committee, while Nos. 2 to 5 should also sit on the History Sub-Committee. Nos. 2, 6 and 7 should be given seats on the Mathematics Sub-Committee, and Nos. 7 and 8 should be appointed to the Science and Philosophy Sub-Committee.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

ULUBARIA DARPAN,
April 27th, 1900.

16. The *Ulubaria Darpan* [Ulubaria] of the 27th April says that the public experience great difficulty in getting out of and getting into the boat at the Ulubaria ferry ghât, in the Howrah district, on account of the absence of a jetty or landing platform. An ordinary platform can be constructed at a cost of only one or two rupees, and the attention of the Assistant Engineer of the Division was drawn to this; but he has not as yet taken any action in the matter.

VISWADUT,
May 9th, 1900.

17. The *Viswadut* [Calcutta] of the 9th May complains against the working of the Naihati Municipality. The Chairman, a European, knows nothing, and understands nothing of municipal work, and is a tool in the hands of the Vice-Chairman. The Commissioners are mostly recruited from among half-educated clerks or illiterate people, and hard-working men who have no time to spare. This is so, not because there are not able and educated men in Naihati. It is due to the influence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman seems to have acquired a permanent tenure of the post. To tell the truth, the condition of the Naihati Municipality is so bad, that men of light and leading in the town look upon it as a disgrace to become Municipal Commissioners. It is hoped that the Government will take the matter into its consideration, or the Commissioners will make the town too hot for the residents. The Chairman has recently ordered that huts shall be thatched not with straw, but with tile or corrugated-iron. This will cause great trouble and inconvenience to poor tax-payers.

SANJIVANI,
May 10th, 1900.

18. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th May:—

The Jaynagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district.

Out of the twelve Commissioners in the Jaynagar Municipality, in the 24-Parganas district, eight are elected by the rate-payers and the rest are nominated by Government. Four of the eight elected Commissioners belong to the powerful Datta family of Majilpur and two out of the four nominated Commissioners, namely, Babus Birajkrishna Datta and Nritya Gopal Datta, also belong to the same family. That is to say, half the number of Municipal Commissioners belong to the Datta family. Two of the remaining six, namely, Babu Ananda Chandra Ghosh and his nephew, Babu Hem Chandra Ghosh, are the protégés of the Datta family. The Dattas thus appear to be all in all in the municipality. They do what they please and there is none to question their authority. With the combined powers of zamindar and Municipal Commissioner, they are freely

committing oppression on the people. They are encroaching on the public road near their house by erecting pillars; they are compelling others to re-excavate their comparatively less-unhealthy tanks, while they have kept their own unhealthy tanks, within the jurisdiction of the municipality, un-re-excavated. They have a tank to the north of the Majilpur Vernacular School, full of weeds, so much so, that cows and goats graze freely on it. Being so near to the school, it tells very much on the health of the boys. Recently the Vice-Chairman of the municipality, Babu Birajkrishna Datta, and his brothers, have encroached on a portion of the public road in front of Babu Rasik Chandra Ghosh's house and to the east of the house of the late Babu Radhanath Datta. The Commissioners have as yet made no objection to this. Again, who will oppose them? Most of the Commissioners are their friends, relations or protégés. The encroachment on this road will mean a great deal of trouble and inconvenience to the public. If the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas makes a local enquiry, he will see that our statements are correct. The Datta party being all-powerful in the municipality, the other Commissioners do not oppose them, seeing that their opposition would produce no good. Most of the rate-payers are either their raiyats, *chakdars* or servants. It is, therefore, no wonder that they should ignore the claims of more deserving candidates and give their votes to the members of the Datta family. But it is a regret that the Government should also nominate these half-educated scions of the Datta family as Municipal Commissioners. A new election will be held on the 16th of June, and many of the Datta family and their friends and dependants have already offered themselves as candidates for election, and the other candidates have, therefore, very little chance of being elected. If the Government, therefore, also nominates Datta family men as Commissioners, the Datta party will become overwhelmingly strong.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

19. A correspondent writing in the *Somprakash* [Calcutta] of the 7th May, says that the Santipur-Bagachara Road, in the Nadia district, is in a very deplorable condition. The Government constructed this road for the convenience of the villagers, but it has been brought to its present wretched condition for want of repairs by the District Board. Passenger and cart traffic on this road is very large. Rupees 60 was sanctioned by the District Board last winter for its repair and tenders were invited, but repair has not as yet been taken in hand. Most part of the road is already under water owing to the few showers which fell in April last. Six places between Bagdevitola and Kamarpara, a distance of only one mile, became submerged in the rainy season.

SOMPRAKASH,
May 7th, 1900.

20. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 9th May says that the road from Barada to Ghatal, in the Midnapore district, has not been repaired since its construction, and becomes practically impassable during the rainy season. The villagers submitted a petition to the Local Board for its repair, but no action has as yet been taken in the matter.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
May 9th, 1900.

(h)—*General.*

21. A correspondent writes in the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th May that no enquiry has been made into the case of cheating and forgery in the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, for which Govinda Chandra Chatterji has been suspended. Why has no enquiry been made? The Comptroller has been informed of this case of cheating and forgery, and also of the name of the person who committed the offence. Has the offender been let off simply to keep the reputation of the office intact?

BASUMATI,
May 10th, 1900.

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May complains of irregular postal service in village Fajilpur, in the Midnapore district. Fajilpur is only two miles from the post office, but letters and other postal articles are sent to the village through other people than the post peon. The peon is seen only when he has to deliver a money-order. A *hât* is held twice a week in the Kutranka village. If a

HITAVADI,
May 11th, 1900.

postal box is placed in Kutranka and the peon pays a visit to that village twice a week, the public will be inconvenienced.

BANGAVASI,
May 12th, 1900.

23. A correspondent writing in the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th May, says that the village Sankator, within the jurisdiction of the Disergram police-station, in the Burdwan district has been undermined owing to the working of the coal mines. The Bengal Coal Company, the zamindar of the village, were informed of this, but they are indifferent in the matter. It is feared that during the rainy season the whole village, with its houses and gardens, will disappear. One mining expert should be sent to ascertain whether the fears of the villagers are well founded.

PRATIVASI,
May 14th, 1900.

24. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th May writes as follows with reference to the recent Government order regarding appointments in the Military Secretariat Office:—

The Government order has surprised the public, and the Government has not acted well in showing special favour to a particular community and ignoring the claims of able and deserving candidates. Lord Ripon was the first to introduce a competitive examination, and it is a pity that Lord Curzon is going to abolish the examination system out of partiality for a favoured community. It is a regret that Lord Curzon is disappointing all our hopes.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
May 14th, 1900.

25. A correspondent writing in the *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 14th May says that the jurisdiction of the Navinagar Sub-Registry Office, in the Tippera district, is very large. It extends over 20 or 25 miles on the west and over 17 or 18 miles on the south. Consequently the office has very heavy work to do. It is said that 2,397 documents were registered in this office from the 1st of January to the 9th of May last. Hundreds of documents are presented in the office every day for registration; consequently all are not registered, and much inconvenience and trouble is caused to the parties who have to come from distances of 20 or 25 miles. Under these circumstances, the public will be greatly benefited if a new sub-registry office is opened in a central position.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BASUMATI,
May 10th, 1900.

26. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th May has the following:—

The German contribution to the Famine Relief Fund.

The German Emperor, the renowned and victorious German Emperor, who is a grandson of the Queen-Empress and the glory of Europe, has made a princely gift for the relief of the starving, famine-stricken and perishing Indian people. It is a far cry from India to Germany. Germany is the home of heroism, the land of research. We do not know at whose instance and by whom inspired, the large and mighty heart of the Berlin people has been moved by the distress of the Indian people, and at once three lakhs of rupees has been sent to India for the relief of the distressed Indians. Whom shall we thank for this princely gift? Let us thank God for this munificence of the German people—Him at whose secret bidding all differences between one nation and another cease to exist, and the world overflows with the milk of human kindness.

Mother Victoria! we are poor, we are helpless. What more can we do than pray to God for the welfare of your grandson, who is as brave as Kartikeya (the war-god) and as charitable as Karna of the Mahabharat? May He who has blessed you with such a happy and heroic family, bless your grandson!

HITAVADI,
May 11th, 1900.

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May has the following with

The German contribution to the famine fund.

reference to the German contribution to the Indian Famine Relief Fund:—

The Indian people will long gratefully remember this help—this act of kindness. It is a happy news that the German people have felt for, and sympathised with, the starving and distressed Indian people. May the German Emperor live long. There is a relationship between ourselves and the German Emperor. European savants have written

a good deal about the blood relationship between Hindus and Germans. The German Emperor is, moreover, a grandson of the Queen-Empress. Blood is indeed thicker than water.

28. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 14th May is glad that the Kaiser has informed Lord Curzon by a telegram that his subjects have collected Rs. 3,75,000 for the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 14th, 1900.

The German contribution to the Famine Fund.

29. The same paper is sorry to hear that a woman of Bhivani, in the Punjab, having sold her infant child for one rupee, began to lament. When people asked why she

BHARAT MITRA,

A famine scene.

was lamenting, she replied that she could not sell her second child whom she had left at home crying for food. Such a state of things ought to excite the pity of the well-to-do people of India.

30. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th May writes that Lord Curzon's famine circular is already making its effects felt in the famine-stricken parts of the country. Accord-

PRATIVASI,
May 14th, 1900.

The famine in Katiwar.

ing to a correspondent of the *Englishman*, the condition of the famine-stricken people in Katiwar is deplorable, and shows that relief did not reach them in time. The correspondent writes, after paying a visit to the Wadhan poor-house, that many of its inmates would not have had to come there if they had received help in time.

31. The *Viswadu* (Calcutta) of the 16th May writes with reference to the German contribution to the Famine Fund:—

VISWADUT,
May 16th, 1900.

The German contribution to the Famine Fund.

It is a long distance that separates Germany from India. All praise to you, Emperor of Germany, for this act, this proof of your kindheartedness. We poor Indians have nothing which we can give you in return for this generosity. But we shall ever pray to God, with a grateful heart, to give long life to such a magnanimous and sympathetic Emperor and to bless him and his empire.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

32. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* (Murshidabad) of the 9th May has the following:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 9th, 1900.

The question of British prestige in India.

The article on British prestige in India which has recently appeared in the *Englishman* newspaper shows that the writer is labouring under a grave misconception. The moment a European is insulted or assaulted by a native, English prestige, it seems, is destroyed and English rule is shaken to its foundation. If natives oppressed by the rigour of the plague regulations become desperate and make a stand anywhere against the plague officers for the purpose of saving their lives and protecting the honour of their families, European officials immediately raise the cry of rebellion. An Englishman's kick may cause a rupture of the unlucky native's spleen and a bullet from a European soldier's gun may kill him, and this will not, in the opinion of narrow-minded Englishmen, cause the slightest diminution of the prestige of the British Government, but if you utter one word on behalf of your brother or of some oppressed fellow-countryman, you are sure to be set down as a rebel. A slap given by a European causes your death and justice is not done by the Court. If the people talk over the matter and protest, they are sure to be prosecuted for sedition and mischief-making. You must not show sympathy for your brother or weep for him. You will be undone if you do so. How is prestige maintained? Englishmen, do justice, and prestige will be maintained. Check the oppressions which are committed upon helpless, unfortunate and conquered subjects by powerful officials, and your good name will be preserved. Then shall we, the natives themselves, proclaim the justice and good rule of Englishmen and fill all India with their praise. The *Pioneer* has needlessly abused the educated natives of Cawnpore and arrived at two erroneous conclusions. According to that paper, as the educated natives are the leaders of the country, they should be held principally responsible for such riots and affrays. Either they have no influence over the masses, or they secretly instigate these mischief-makers and excite their hostility to Englishmen.

To call judges, magistrates, vakeels, professors, doctors and others occupying a high social position abettors or instigators of riots and affrays is to do them great injustice. What can they expect to gain by doing such mischief? The *Englishman* newspaper says that these highly-placed natives cherish a feeling of hostility to their English masters and are not well disposed towards the existing Government; that the proofs they occasionally furnish of loyalty consist only of idle profession and do not come from the heart, and that they desire the subversion of English rule. By circulating such baseless and improbable statements, the *Englishman* only produces ill-feeling between the rulers and the ruled, and makes Government view the subject-people with hatred and distrust. We fail to see what leads our contemporary to indulge in such mad ravings and thereby make his paper contemptible.

If it is a fault that the leaders of native society are unable to guide the masses or hold them in check, the fault is one for which those leaders are not responsible. This inability is not of their own making or seeking. Who shall obey a person to whom power is not given by the Sovereign or whose voice does not carry weight with the officials? As the Bengali saying has it, there is a self-constituted headman whose authority is not acknowledged by any one. How can a person hold others in check who is not invested with ruling powers? Educated natives have not become powerless of their own will; it is their ill-luck that has made them such. It is true that you have obtained the powers of a Municipal Commissioner, that you have become a Member of the Viceregal Council and obtained the power of making laws; that you have obtained still higher offices, but all these are nominal powers. Government has duped the people just as children are duped with presents of sweetmeat. Municipal Commissioners, say if you possess powers worth a *cowri*. A solid file of two dozen Municipal Commissioners does not possess even a thousandth part of the power which is indicated by a glance from the Magistrate's eye or by a movement of his little finger. You are like the proverbial Nidhiram Sardar, who, though without a sword and a shield, still gave himself the title of Sardar. Who pays heed to the resolutions which you pass at every meeting? Your proceeding books become worm-eaten, and are sold as waste paper after a few days. What can the native members do in the Legislative Councils? They are allowed to sit at the same table with the *Lat Sahib* and ask questions. Very considerable powers indeed that we have got. We do what it is possible for us to do with such powers. In the Calcutta plague of 1898 the educated natives generally, and the elected native Commissioners in particular, did wonderful work. They banished fear from the minds of the people and re-assured them, and thus established peace and order in the metropolis. This has been publicly acknowledged by Sir John Woodburn. But the *Pioneer* ignores the fact, and stigmatises the educated natives as the root of all mischief.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May has the following:—

Abuse of Hindus and Hinduism
by Christian Missionaries.

The Indian people are naturally docile and law-abiding; they are never quarrelsome. The Hindus, moreover, are powerless, and it is very easy to malign them and find fault with their religion, morality, education and nationality. The Christian missionaries very well know that they can safely abuse an innocent, peaceful and weak people like the Hindus. They, therefore, unhesitatingly abuse the Hindus and their gods in season and out of season.

It is an old, old practice with the missionaries to abuse the Hindus. In Christian tracts Hindus are called liars, cheats, swindlers and rakes. Hindu gods have been filthily attacked and Hindu feelings ruthlessly wounded. But the Hindus have still forgiven the missionaries. A few years ago, Mr. Hastie called the Hindus a race of bastards and the Hindu women a race of prostitutes. Speaking of the God, Gopinath Jiu, he said the chastity of Hindu women would have been in danger if the God had been still alive. But such is Hindu forbearance that even such cowardly attacks have been tolerated. Missionary abuse, however, knows no bounds, and in a Christian paper in Southern India, the Hindu religion has been ruthlessly abused.

"The Hindus," writes this missionary paper, "are eager to save the lives of bees and bugs, but they do not hesitate to starve their cows to death, torture their horses, cruelly ill-treat their widows, and poison their neighbours." What a picture! Could any one else draw the Hindu character so black? But

HITAVADI,
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this is not all. "Abortion, infanticide, *thugi*, *suttee*, adultery, and worse and more dreadful crimes," continues the writer, "are the chief features of Hinduism. In India religion has nothing to do with morality. The most ignorant and depraved in the community, as a rule, pass for the greatest *Sadhus*. Even the most vicious and immoral Hindu is held to be as pure as his *Vedas* and his gods. In Hindu opinion, it does not matter whether a man bears a good or a bad moral character, it is enough for his salvation to pay money to temples and Brahmans."

If such things had been told of any other people in the world, the critic's life would have been unsafe. If the writer had abused the Indian Musalmans in this way, his life would have been jeopardised. The natural forbearance of the Hindus has saved him. Will the Christian missionaries be satisfied if, following their example, we freely give out our opinion regarding the birth of Christ and the character of Mary, David, Lot, Solomon and others? Plain speaking is sure to offend them. If we wantonly abuse the Christians, find fault with their character, and call them fools, hypocrites and liars, how will they take our abuse? Will they not prosecute us under the Indian Penal Code?

The missionaries have come to India to preach their religion. To prove the excellence and superiority of their religion, they must prove the inferiority of other religions. They have therefore made it the mission of their life to find fault with Hinduism. If there are defects in Hinduism, they are at liberty to point them out. But when their arguments fail to convince us that what they call the defects of our religion are really defects and what they call our errors are errors, why should they abuse and malign us? They believe Christianity to be the best religion, but we do not. Does this make us irreligious, untruthful and immoral? Christians have killed Christians for differences of opinion. Thousands have been burnt at the stake, and Christian cruelty has invented instruments of death to make the pain of death much more painful to those who have been killed for their religion. The mysteries of monasteries and nunneries have been exposed, and the history of Europe is full of proofs of Christian cruelty and barbarity. We fail to understand with what face Christian missionaries venture to find fault with other religions.

34. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Manager of the Rohini estate, Deoghar.

Srimati Tarangini Devi of Naldanga has a house at Carstairs town, within the Rohini estate, Deoghar. Her brother complained to the Subdivisional Officer that one Bideshi Parshi and others had encroached upon her sister's land and demolished a wall. The Subdivisional Officer instructed Maulvi Saiyad Nejabat Hossain Khan Saheb to enquire into and report upon the complaint. The Maulvi reported as follows:—

"The land is not hers, but it belongs to estate Rohini, and it is a path-way.

"He (the complainant) erected this wall during my absence from headquarters. On my return I ordered Bideshi to pull the wall down, which he did accordingly.

"Should the petitioner object that by the laying out of the path the area leased to his sister becomes less, then I can give her the khas *patit* land on the western side to make good the loss."

Upon the submission of this report, the Subdivisional Officer referred the complainant to the Civil Court. But he saw the Subdivisional Officer again at the Madhupur camp and explained the matter to him, and the Subdivisional Officer instructed Babu Sarat Chandra Mukharji, Deputy Magistrate, to make a judicial enquiry into the matter. Sarat Babu made a searching enquiry and reported as follows:—

"From the evidence, the land on which the wall stood appears conclusively to be in the possession of complainant's sister.....From a view of the spot, it was clear that it has not been used as a road."

The Deputy Magistrate also observed:—

"If a public road in a municipal town was obstructed by a wall being built across it, and a well dug, the proper remedy would be to run to the

HITAVADI,
May 11th, 1900.

magisterial or municipal authorities, and not to take the law into one's own hands. I think the accused, Bideshi, &c., should be tried under sections 143, 426 and 447, Indian Penal Code."

The Subdivisional Officer then made a local enquiry into the matter, and wrote in his diary: "I find that the complainant has good ground for complaint." The Maulvi having now perceived that he had been shown up, and fearing that he might be prosecuted, sought the protection of the complainant and accompanied him to the Subdivisional Officer. The result of this interview was the following entry in the Subdivisional Officer's diary: "Babu Baroda is willing to withdraw the complaint, provided all his expenses are repaid and the wall rebuilt and his title, &c., admitted." The complaint was accordingly withdrawn.

All is well that ends well. Let us hope that the Manager of the Rohini estate will henceforward act more carefully. Under the former Subdivisional Officer he enjoyed unlimited powers. We hope, however, that he will now understand his position. One word more. Will the compensation, which has been paid to the complainant in the case under notice, be borne by the Maulvi or by the Rohini estate?

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 25th, 1900.

35. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 25th April is sorry to notice that owing to the death of cattle through want of hay and water in the Province of Bombay, the cultivating classes and the Local Government are placed in a serious predicament. The Government of Bombay, in consultation with Mr. Smeaton, the custodian of the Famine Fund of the Government of India, have determined to purchase oxen with the aid of the Famine Fund and to place them at the disposal of the cultivators by turns, as the amount available for such purpose from that fund is not sufficient to purchase the entire number required. The writer observes that, although this arrangement will give some relief, still it will not effect a radical cure. The only remedy, as the writer himself suggests, against such obstacles in the way of cultivation, is to supply oxen with Government money on a system of loan and realise the same afterwards in instalments. Lastly, the writer hopes that the Supreme Government will be on their guard against such want of oxen in other provinces.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

36. The same paper is glad to learn that the District Board of Mymensingh have resolved to send the dumb and the deaf of their district to the dumb and deaf school at Calcutta, and hopes that this noble example will be followed by the Local Boards of other districts.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

37. The same paper gives an extract from a Rangpore paper stating that cattle-plague is raging virulently in that district, and that this has resulted in hindrance to cultivation and in scarcity of milk and clarified butter. As there are no veterinary surgeons in that district, the writer requests the local District Board to send some young men to the Veterinary School near Calcutta for education under an agreement that they must serve in the district as veterinary surgeons for a certain number of years after the completion of their education. The writer further draws the attention of the opulent and the influential public to the importance of the proposal made above.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

38. Referring to the proposal of Mr. Toynbee, the late Commissioner of Orissa and the present Member of the Board of Revenue, Bengal, relating to the enactment of a law for the establishment of courts of arbitration to which the people of Bengal may refer their disputes for settlement and thereby save themselves from ruinous litigation, the same paper hopes that this good proposal will be accepted by the Government.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

39. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Reuther, who does not know Uriya, as the Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, the same paper is sorry to observe that the appointment has been made without the least regard to the backward condition of the province, and urges that the well-wishers of

Orissa should apply for a Uriya-knowing Inspector, if the proposal to bring back Rai Radhanath Rai Bahadur, the late Inspector of Schools, or to have another competent Uriya placed in the situation is not found feasible.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 19th May, 1900.

